(viii) A series of relief measures such as enhanced DEPB and Duty drawback rates, reduced ECGC premium, subvention on credit rates, refund of service tax paid by exporters on various services *etc.* were taken to assist textile exporters.

(ix) The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has established Apparel Training Design Centres (ATDCs) throughout the country to meet the requirement of skilled/semi-skilled manpower for the textile industry.

To provide a fiscal stimulus to the economy through stimulation of demand and relief to the manufacturing sector including the textile sector, the Government has announced the following measures on 07.12.2008:—

- General reduction of 4% in CENVAT rates. As a result, the textile machinery will have CENVAT of 10% and Non-cotton textile will have 4%.
- Rate of duty on cotton textile and the textile articles has been reduced from 4% to Nil.
- NAPHTA imported for generation of electric energy has been exempted from import duty.
- The benefit of Service Tax refund is now extended to service provided by clearing and forwarding agents to exporters.
- The Threshold limit of refund of service tax paid by exporters on foreign commission agent service has been enhanced from 2% of FOB value to 10% of FOB value of exports.
- Draw tack benefit can now be availed of simultaneously with refund of service tax paid in respect of exports.
- Pre and post — shipment export credit for certain specific sectors including textiles is being made more attractive by providing an interest subvention of 2% upto 31/03/2009 subject to minimum rate of interest 7% per annum.
- An additional allocation has been provided for TUFS.
- All items of handicrafts have been included under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana'.
- To boost collateral free lending, the current guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small enterprises on loans has been extended from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore with guarantee cover of 50 per cent.

(c) and (d) The Government has not received any reports regarding large scale job loss in the textile sector.

**Price of cotton in international market *vis-a-vis* India**

†1852. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton in the international market is less than its price in India;

(b) if so, the average price of cotton in October and November in international and Indian market;

(c) whether it is also a fact that less cotton and jute will be exported due to higher price in Indian market; and

(d) if so, export value of cotton and yarn during the period upto November, 2007 to November, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) At present the price of cotton in the international market is lower than its price in India. Average price of cotton in October and November in international and Indian markets is as under:—

| Month | International prices of cotton | | Average Spot rate of equivalent Indian cotton (H-4) | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | US Cents/lb | (Rs. per candy) | (Rs. per candy) | (Rs. per candy) |
| October | 62.30 | 23752 | 23270 | -487 |
| November | 55.06 | 20103 | 21929 | 1826 |

Source: Cot look A Index and Cotton Association of India for spot rate of H-4.

(c) Export of cotton and jute is not dependent on price alone but on various factors including quality of the product, economic slow down and subdued demand.

(d) The export value of cotton raw including waste cotton yarn, fabrics and made-ups during November, 2007 to August, 2008 is as follows:—

(Value in Rs. Crores)

| | |
|---|---|
| Cotton raw including waste | 8569.12 |
| Cotton yarn, fabrics and made ups | 1603.37 |

**Scheme for weavers in tribal States**

1853. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme for assisting weavers in tribal States in the North East India for promoting traditional arts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amounts of special grants or grants-in-aid or any other monetary assistance provided to the weavers of traditional attires in Nagaland since last three years; and